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Christ Church Hospital.

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PROCEEDINGS

ON THE OCCASION OF

LAYING THE CORNER-STONE

OF THE

NEW HOSPITAL IN BELMONT,

PHILADELPHIA,

INCLUDING THE

ADDRESSES

OF THE

RIGHT REV. ALONZO POTTER, D.D.,

BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA,

AND

REV. BENJAMIN DORR, D.D.,

RECTOR OF CHRIST CHURCH.

PHILADELPHIA:

E. C. AND J. BIDDLE, NO. 8 MINOR STREET.

1856.

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AT THE

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AGREEABLY to an invitation issued by the Board of Managers of the Hospital, a large number of the Episcopal clergy of Philadelphia, members of the vestries of Christ Church and St. Peter's, and other persons, assembled on the site selected for the new hospital, in Belmont, Philadelphia, about midday on the 18th November, 1856, to witness the laying of the corner-stone. The corner-stone, the first stone of the new building, having been laid at the southwest angle of that portion of the building designed for the chapel, a leaden box was deposited in it, containing the following articles:—

1. A pamphlet containing—so much of the will of Dr. KEARSLEY as relates to Christ Church Hospital—a notice of the bequest of Mr. JOSEPH DOBBINS—Acts of Assembly and other documents having reference to the Institution—By-laws of the Board of Managers—and Rules and Regulations for the Government of the House.
2. A copy of the "History of Christ Church," by Rev. Dr. DORR, embracing a short history of the Hospital.
3. Copies of the Bible and Prayer Book.

4. Copies of the two Church Almanacs for 1856.
5. Copies of the "Banner of the Cross," and "Episcopal Recorder" of the preceding week.
6. Some of the current coins of the United States.
7. A parchment scroll with the following inscription: "In the year of our Lord 1856, and on the 18th day of November, this corner stone was laid by the Bishop of the Diocese, assisted by the Rectors of Christ Church and St. Peter's Church, in the presence of the vestries of said churches and others.

<i>President of the United States,</i>	FRANKLIN PIERCE.
<i>Governor of the State of Pennsylvania,</i>	JAMES POLLOCK.
<i>Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania,</i>	ALONZO POTTER, D. D.
<i>Rector of Christ Church,</i>	BENJAMIN DORR, D. D.
<i>Rector of St. Peter's Church,</i>	WM. H. ODENHEIMER, D. D.

Vestry of Christ Church—

MOSES KEMPTON, *Accounting Warden*,
 C. CAMPBELL COOPER, M. D.,
 JAMES C. BOOTH,
 SAMUEL WAGNER,
 EDMUND A. SOUDER,
 HON. WILLIAM M. MEREDITH,
 EDWARD L. CLARK,
 PETER MCCALL,
 JOHN C. DA COSTA,
 JOSEPH E. HOVER,
 WILLIAM A. M. FULLER.

Vestry of St. Peter's Church—

HON. JOSEPH R. INGERSOLL, *Rector's Warden*,
 FRANCIS GURNEY SMITH, *Accounting Warden*,
 JAMES S. SMITH,
 JOHN WELSH,
 D. HENRY FLICKWIR,
 JAMES S. NEWBOLD,
 JOHN DONNALDSON,

HORACE BINNEY, Jr.,
 CHARLES WILLING, M. D.,
 WILLIAM S. HELMUTH, M. D.,
 SAMUEL WELSH,
 ALEXANDER E. OUTERBRIDGE.

Managers of Christ Church Hospital—

JAMES S. NEWBOLD,
 JAMES C. BOOTH,
 CHARLES WILLING, M. D.,
 C. CAMPBELL COOPER, M. D.,
 SAMUEL WELSH,
 EDMUND A. SOUDER.

Treasurer,
Superintendent of Property,
Matron,
Physician,
Architect,

FRANCIS KING.
 MOSES KEMPTON.
 MRS. J. C. LEWIS.
 FRANCIS WEST, M. D.
 JOHN M. GRIES.

BISHOP POTTER'S ADDRESS.

THE Right Rev. Bishop POTTER made the following address:—

FRIENDS AND BRETHREN:—

We meet this morning to solemnize by religious offices the commencement of a building which is to be devoted to purposes of Christian beneficence. It is now not far from one hundred years since Dr. John Kearsley—a distinguished citizen of Philadelphia, and an earnest member of our communion—appropriated by will a large part of his property to the foundation of *Christ Church Hospital*. His example was followed, at no distant day, by a citizen of South Carolina, Joseph Dobbins, who devoted to the same object all his estate, real and personal. Those properties would now be regarded as small; the city itself was small, and so was the communion to which these gentlemen belonged. In each there has been progress, which it becomes us to remember to-day. The small town of Philadelphia has risen to be a city with half a million of inhabitants; the Protestant Episcopal Church in that town has grown from two or three congregations to more than forty; and

the humble foundation which was thus laid in faith and hope by two followers of Christ—who remain, I believe, till this time, its only benefactors—has now become, through the increased value of real estate and the wise stewardship of its trustees, a munificent endowment. The building to be erected on this spot will afford a quiet and pleasant Christian home for one hundred destitute and desolate women; and we anticipate a day when, from its original resources, and without any extraneous aid, Christ Church Hospital will have room for twice that number. Honor, then, to the memory of these large-hearted founders. Honor to the vestries of Christ and St. Peter's Churches, under whose careful supervision their gifts have gathered such a noble increase. Honor, above all, to Him whose good spirit prompts men to establish charities so full of blessing to a distant posterity.

With what a dignity and glory is not property invested, when we use it thus! But for the comparatively small sums which were devoted to the founding of Christ Church Hospital, hundreds of lone and distressed women would already have wanted a home. As we look along the future, from generation to generation, we see larger and still larger numbers rising up to call those founders blessed. To every one, then, whom God hath blessed with the means of doing good, this occasion seems to say: *Go and do likewise.* The past of Philadelphia is a pledge that property consecrated, for all time, to purposes of charity, will not be wasted, but will serve as a perennial fountain of beneficence. Other forms of suffering claim our sympathy and aid. "The poor ye have

always with you." The destitute sick need hospitals; and a hospital founded by our communion in Philadelphia still languishes for the want of a more liberal endowment. Pious and devoted women have laid a foundation for it, but others, of both sexes, are needed to build thereon. Where God has given wealth, may He give the heart to use it in his fear, and for the relief of suffering humanity. May He cause those who hold it to remember and understand the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." "Charge them that are rich in this world that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good; that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate, laying up in store a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."

AN ADDRESS

AT THE

LAYING OF THE CORNER-STONE OF CHRIST CHURCH HOSPITAL.

THE REV. DR. DORR read the following:—

We are met together, my friends, this afternoon, to assist in an interesting service—the laying the corner-stone of a building to be devoted to the most useful charity that Christian philanthropy could devise—a home for aged indigent women. That ceremony having been performed, the corner-stone laid, ready for the super-structure, it might seem that our duty was fulfilled: and yet, as we stand upon ground to be consecrated by such a monument of large-hearted benevolence, it is but right that we should linger awhile, to call to remembrance the virtues of those liberal men who made the managers of this institution the almoners of their bounty, and the honored instruments of carrying out their wise and generous plans. I propose, therefore, at this time, to say a few words respecting two individuals, the one the founder, and the other the chief benefactor of Christ Church Hospital; and to trace, very briefly, the history and progress of that institution, from its beginning to the present time. Nearly a century and a half ago,

there came to this country, from England, a young man, twenty-six years of age, vigorous, active, and enterprising, with talents and education which fitted him for taking a high rank in society, and with such moral and religious principles as would direct his influence for good. He chose this city for his home, and soon won his way into popular favor, so as to command general confidence, not only in his professional skill as a physician, but in his wisdom, prudence, and integrity as a citizen, and his piety and charity as a Christian. He took an active part in the affairs of the province, and manifested special interest in the welfare of his adopted city, and of the church of his fathers, which he found already planted here. For these he labored through a long life of fourscore and eight years; and when his useful race was run, and he rested from his labors, many hearts mourned his loss, and many tongues proclaimed his praise. He had proved himself throughout, a true son of Philadelphia—a *Philadelphos* in the highest and best sense—a lover of his brethren and sisters everywhere, “especially those of the household of faith.”

Hear how a contemporary speaks of him at the time of his decease. In a newspaper of that day, published in this city, *The Pennsylvania Packet*, dated January 13, 1772, I find the following record: “On Saturday morning last died, in the 88th year of his age, Dr. John Kearsley. He was born in England, and came into this province about the year 1711. He was much esteemed as a man of eminence and skill in his profession, and for many years was engaged in the most extensive practice, both in the city and country. By his strict temper-

ance, and regular mode of living, he preserved until within a few weeks before his death, an uncommon share of health and activity, so that he may be said to have deserved the good old age he attained to. He had talents for public and civil life. He was long one of the representatives for this city in the house of Assembly, and distinguished himself so much in every debate where the liberty or interest of the province was concerned, that he has often been borne from the Assembly to his own house on the shoulders of the people. He was well acquainted with the principles of Architecture, a monument of which we have in Christ Church; a building which (in the opinion of strangers), in point of elegance and taste, surpasses everything of the kind in America. To this church, and to the Christian religion as professed in the Church of England, he was warmly attached—so much so, that amidst the many busy and active scenes he was constantly engaged in, he was seldom absent from the public worship of the sanctuary. We hear that he has bequeathed several handsome legacies to the poor.”

There are two statements in this obituary notice which claim our attention—the fact that Christ Church is his monument, and the rumor that he had left some handsome legacies to the poor. I shall consider the fact first, and the rumor afterwards.

Christ Church is his monument; this is the fact. For threescore years he was so identified with it that the history of the one is the history of the other. That beautiful building which some, even now, in this day of costly and elegant churches, think almost, if not quite

"equal to anything of the kind in America," has stood for a hundred and thirty years a monument of Dr. Kearsley's skill and taste in architecture.

It would seem, from the records of the vestry, that no such structure would have been begun and carried out in all its details, but for him. When he came to the city, the first Christ Church, an humble structure, was standing in its primitive simplicity, and he had the privilege of worshipping in it sixteen years. It was twice enlarged and improved in his day. In April, 1727, the old building, enlarged as it had been, was found "too small to accommodate the congregation," and the vestry "Resolved, that as a beginning for a large and costly church, an addition be made to the west end, and a foundation be laid for that, and for a tower or steeple." But there were no funds on hand, nor had any means been taken to procure them. "Upon which," so runs the record, "Dr. Kearsley, out of a hearty desire to have the said work begun, undertakes to set men a digging, in order to lay the foundation, and will disburse money for the same, until subscriptions be made and collected for the said use." His offer is accepted; he is made chairman of the building committee, and, in that same month (April, 1727) the corner-stone of the present building was laid, with appropriate ceremonies, by the Governor of the Province, assisted by the Mayor of the city, the Recorder, the Rector of the church, and others. Dr. Kearsley appears to have had the whole superintendence and charge of the building, from its beginning to its completion. After it had been sixteen years in progress, he says that he had been "trustee and overseer

in carrying it on, and that in the compass of full five years in that time, he had given daily attendance, without any relaxation from that service; and had always been in advance large sums of money." In May, 1747, the corporation passed a vote of thanks, and ordered a piece of plate, of the value of forty pounds, to be "given, in the name of the vestry and congregation, to Dr. John Kearsley," I quote from the Records, "for his care and trouble in rebuilding and ornamenting the church, and as a lasting memorial, and grateful acknowledgment of his services done for this church and congregation."

Thus was the present Christ Church happily brought to a completion under the auspices of Dr. Kearsley. He had superintended its building for twenty years, and lived to worship in that new structure a quarter of a century after it was finished.

In 1751 a subscription was opened for building a steeple and purchasing a chime of bells. Dr. Kearsley's name appears among the first of the subscribers for twenty pounds, and he is placed at the head of the committee for superintending the erection of the steeple, the foundation of which had been laid by him twenty-five years before. The steeple was built by Robert Smith; but for its architectural beauty, as well as for that of the body of the church, the credit seems due to Dr. Kearsley. Seven years after this (June, 1758), that is to say, sixty-three years after the building of the first Christ Church, and thirty-one years after the present structure was begun (during all which period of nearly two-thirds of a century Philadelphia had but the one Episcopal

church), subscriptions were opened, "under the management of the minister, church-wardens, and vestry of Christ Church," for erecting another church "at the south end of the city," and Dr. Kearsley is first named of the committee "to receive subscriptions, and to take the care and management of the building the same." This was the beginning of St. Peter's Church, which was finished and ready to be opened three years after—August, 1761—and Dr. Kearsley again stands prominent as one of "a committee to prepare a plan for regulating and opening said church." It was dedicated September 4th of that year, by a service prepared for that special occasion by the officiating ministers, the Provost of the University, Dr. Smith, preaching the sermon. From that time until the act of separation in 1832, Christ Church and St. Peter's were under one corporation.

I have thus hastily noticed Dr. Kearsley's connection with the enlargement, alterations and completion of Christ Church, for a period of sixty-one years. His name appears in the records as a vestryman in 1719, and he continued to hold the office of warden, or vestryman, for fifty-three years, up to the time of his decease.

From the ground on which we now stand, Christ Church can be seen, with its graceful spire rising from the chief mart of our great city, and pointing heavenward—a monument not only of Dr. Kearsley's architectural skill,* but of his indefatigable industry, his liberality, and his zeal.

* He was also the architect of the old State House, in this city, now better known as Independence Hall.

This is what may be seen from the spot where this corner-stone is now laid. But whoever shall stand upon the tower of Christ Church a year or two from this, and turn his eyes in this direction, will see a far nobler monument to his memory in that spacious and beautiful structure which will then have arisen here, in all its fair proportions, with its hundred inmates pouring daily blessings on the memory of its founder.

And now for the rumor. "We hear," says the author of the above obituary notice, written eighty-four years ago, "that he has bequeathed several handsome legacies to the poor." But neither the subject of that article, nor he who penned it, nor any who read it at the time, could have dreamed of the magnitude of the blessings which were to flow from his handsome legacies to the poor.

His will is dated April 29, 1769, not quite three years before his death. A portion of it is as follows: "I do give and devise unto a certain corporation, by charter lately created, by the name of 'The Rector, Church-Wardens, and Vestrymen of the United Episcopal Churches of Christ Church and St. Peter's Church, in the City of Philadelphia, in the Province of Pennsylvania,' and their successors, the sum of eight hundred pounds, Pennsylvania currency, to be paid in cash, or the assignment of any bond or bonds, as my executors, or any of them, shall think fit. And, moreover, I give and devise unto the said corporation, and their successors, all those my ground-rents or rent-charges paying not more than five pounds ten shillings Pennsylvania currency yearly; and all of the said rents paying yearly under that sum,

amounting in the whole to the sum of twenty-four pounds eleven shillings and six pence Pennsylvania currency yearly, to be sold by my executors, and the moneys arising by the sale thereof, together with the above eight hundred pounds, I will shall be made use of by the said corporation, and their successors, for the purchasing of a piece or lot of land, and the building thereon an infirmary, or almshouse, or almshouses, for ten or more poor or distressed women of the communion of the Church of England, or such as the said corporation and their successors shall deem such (preferring clergymen's widows before others), and supplying them with meat, and drink, and lodging, and the assistance of persons practising physic or surgery, by and out of the same moneys, and by and out of such sum or sums of money, or revenues, as I shall hereafter appoint for that purpose, and by and out of such other legacies and donations as any other person or persons shall will and appoint for the same purpose; and it is my mind and will that the said infirmary, or almshouse, or almshouses, when erected, shall be called *Christ Church Hospital*, and not otherwise. And it is my mind and will that the said corporation, and their successors, shall provide a house or houses for the reception of the said poor and distressed persons, or some convenient lodging or house of entertainment (should such house or houses be wanting), till such time as the infirmary, or almshouse, or almshouses aforesaid shall be erected, pursuant to this my will. And, moreover, I do give and devise unto the said corporation, and their successors (after the determination of my said wife Margaret's estate aforesaid devised), my said two messuages in

Front Street; my Lætitia Court messuage; my pasture land in the Northern Liberties, which I purchased of Levi Budd and Thomas Hart; my two High Street messuages or tenements, which Blanch Roberts and Samuel Taylor now dwell in; and all my ground-rents or rent-charges paying yearly above the sum of five pounds ten shillings Pennsylvania currency, amounting in the whole to forty-two pounds nineteen shillings and six pence, with one other ground-rent or rent-charges paying yearly four pounds ten shillings sterling, current money of Great Britain, with their and every of their appurtenances."

As an evidence how much his mind was occupied with this subject, and how earnestly he desired to have his benevolent intentions carried out as speedily as possible, I give an extract from the codicil, dated December 23, 1769, only eight months after the date of the will: "I have purchased of the executors of the last will and testament of John Gaul, deceased, a certain messuage or tenement, and lot or piece of ground thereunto belonging, situate on the north side of Mulberry Street, in the city of Philadelphia, and extending from there northward to Cherry Street, which I think a suitable place to erect an infirmary or almshouse. All which said messuage or tenement, and lot or piece of ground, I do give and devise to the corporation aforesaid, over and above what I have given them by my foregoing will. In trust, that the said corporation, and their successors, shall convert the said messuage or tenement into an infirmary, or almshouse, to be called *Christ Church Hospital*, for the use and subject to the regulations in

my said last will and testament mentioned, and to no other use, intent, or purpose whatsoever.”

The message here named was a two-story house, No. 111 Arch Street, opposite the Friends' Meeting-house. This small building, capable of accommodating only eight persons, was the first Christ Church Hospital. It stood until the year 1785, when it was pulled down, and one of considerably larger dimensions—twenty by thirty-four feet, and three stories high—was erected on its site. This, in the course of time, becoming much too small, and the funds of the institution having increased, a spacious building—sixty feet front, by forty feet deep—was erected on Cherry Street, in the rear of the old building, partly on ground given by Dr. Kearsley, and was opened in March, 1819. The new hospital cost nearly nineteen thousand dollars, and has comfortable accommodations for about forty inmates. For many years past, it has been constantly filled. Several aged widows, now there, have found in it a quiet Christian home for more than twenty years. Full religious services are performed there, and a sermon preached, every Friday afternoon; and the communion is administered publicly once a month, for the accommodation of such of the inmates as are not able to attend the services of the church on Sundays. The Rectors of Christ Church and St. Peter's Church officiate there alternately, and always hold themselves in readiness to visit the sick and the afflicted as often as their services are required.

Seventeen years after Dr. Kearsley's decease, divine Providence raised up another noble benefactor in the person of Joseph Dobbins, Esq., of South Carolina, whose

gifts and bequests, though not so valuable at the time as Dr. Kearsley's, have, by the increased value of real estate, brought to the treasury much larger revenues.

On the records of the Vestry, April 16, 1789, appears the following letter from Mr. Dobbins, announcing his benevolent purpose:—

“SHERIFF HALL, ON WAPP00,

“FOUR MILES FROM CHARLESTON, S. C., *January 28, 1789.*

“TO OUR WORTHY BISHOP, MR. WHITE, TO THE REV. MR. BLACK-

“WELL, AND MY OLD FRIEND ROBERT TOWERS.

“I am now sick, but, I believe, not to die at this time; and, further, hope to live until I can settle my affairs to my mind; and as this is a beginning, and you approve of my offer, it may be a part done, which I could wish was finished. There is that lot on Fifth Street, and that No. 4 from Schuylkill, with somewhere about five hundred pounds in possession of my old friend, John Drinker. The whole I leave to the use of Dr. Kearsley's bounty to the poor, distressed widows, for a continual succession until time shall be no more; paying forty S. M.* dollars every three months, brought and delivered in my hands, and not for me to run after it. The titles of the lands are with my friend, John Drinker, who I have informed by letter; and, if you approve of my offer, the conveyance may be made out and executed—the sooner the better. I expect you three to act a just part by me; and if I receive that sum every three months, I shall be satisfied. I shall conclude, as I am weary, and you know my mind; and subscribe myself

“Your affectionate well-wisher,

“JOSEPH DOBBINS.

* “S. M.” abbreviation for “Spanish Milled.”

“N. B.—It is my request that the money in the hands of my friend may not be taken from him while he gives sufficient security and pays the interest. After my death, the annuity ceases.”

The deed confirming this munificent gift of £500 and two lots of land is dated September 8, 1789. The lot on Fifth Street adjoined Christ Church burial-ground; and that which is called “lot No. 4 from Schuylkill,” was a whole square of ground, bounded by Spruce, Pine, Eighteenth, and Nineteenth Streets, which, after remaining vacant and unproductive for nearly seventy years, has been sold for one hundred and eighty thousand dollars, and is now covered with first-class dwelling-houses, among the most commodious and beautiful in our city.

Mr. Dobbins lived fifteen years after making this noble gift. He died at Columbia, S. C., on the 29th of May, 1804, at the age of seventy-one, leaving, as his will expresses it, “all his estate, real and personal, consisting of one hundred and twenty-six shares in the Bank of South Carolina, together with other property amounting to six thousand dollars, or thereabout, to the poor and distressed widows supported by the bounty of Dr. Kearsley in Christ Church Hospital.”

Thus, through the pious munificence of these two individuals, one of the most useful and benevolent institutions in our country has been amply endowed, and the declining years of many a poor and aged widow have been rendered comfortable and happy. “Blessed is the man that provideth for the sick and needy.” That blessedness, we trust, is theirs, now and forever. ASSO-

ciated with the spirits of the just made perfect, may we not believe that their happiness is increased, that another joy is felt, and still another, as, one by one, the recipients of their bounty here go to join their blessed company, and to unite with them in singing the praises of their common Redeemer?

How truly may it be said of each of these benefactors: "The righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance. He hath dispersed abroad and given to the poor, and his righteousness remaineth forever."

The edifice to be raised here will help to keep their virtues in remembrance, and incite others to emulate their good example, through long years to come. Here many weary hearts, bowed down with cares and sorrows, the pressure of poverty, and the infirmities of age, will find an earthly resting-place and a home, where they can receive the consolations of religion, and, in quietness and peace, can prepare for that better rest on high, that home eternal in the heavens. Like that aged widow of fourscore and four years, whose praise is in the Gospel, they can here serve God night and day. And, as the shadows on the path of their pilgrimage lengthen, they can calmly contemplate the declining sun until the night comes, and they lie quietly down to "sleep in Jesus," only to "awake up after his likeness," and to be "satisfied therewith," on the morning of the resurrection day.

NOTE.

IN consequence of the increased value of property belonging to the Hospital, a proper application of its funds demanded increased accommodations for the class of persons for whom it was designed, but as this could not be accomplished by an extension of the present building, because of the value of the adjacent property, and was inadvisable on account of the active mercantile character of the neighborhood, the Managers, with the consent of the vestries of Christ Church and St. Peter's Church, purchased the property in Belmont on which to erect a new hospital, larger and better adapted to the purpose than the present building.

Since the new hospital, when completed, will accommodate about 100 inmates—"poor or distressed women of the communion" of the Episcopal Church, the Managers avail themselves of the present opportunity to give information relative to the mode of making application for admission into the Hospital. For this purpose, blank forms are, when requested, furnished by the Managers, upon which answers to the following points are required: Name of the applicant—Birth-place—Date of birth—Baptized, where, when, and by whom—Confirmed, where, when, and by whom—Communicant, in what church—Residence, with name of street and

No. of house—Married or single—Children now living, and, if any, their names and residences. There is also provided ample space on the forms for recommendations of an applicant. It is especially necessary that the recommenders should give their own addresses, in order that the Managers may make due inquiry into the suitability of an applicant. It is proper to state, that the will of the founder expressly prefers "clergymen's widows before others," among the applicants for admission.

Although the benefits of this charity are intended for the church at large, its management is committed to six persons, chosen annually, three by the vestry of Christ Church, and three by the vestry of St. Peter's Church, but, by act of Assembly, the legal property is in Christ Church. Therefore, if any persons should be desirous of extending this charity, or of adding to it other purposes of a like nature, their gifts or bequests must be made to "The Rector, Church Wardens, and Vestrymen of Christ Church, in trust for Christ Church Hospital."

The following are the names and addresses of the Managers to whom application for admission should be made:—

JAMES S. NEWBOLD,	No. 433 Spruce Street.
JAMES C. BOOTH,	No. 300 Pine Street.
CHARLES WILLING, M. D.,	No. 9 Portico Square,
C. CAMPBELL COOPER, M. D.,	No. 50 North 13th Street.
SAMUEL WELSH,	No. 262 Spruce Street.
EDMUND A. SOUDER,	No. 65 Spruce Street.

